

AMENDMENTSIn the Claims:

A) 1 (currently amended). A telephonic equipment compatible keypad for entering discrete alphanumeric data, the keypad comprising:

~~a housing containing a telephone set compatible array of manually operated actuators; the array having four rows of three manually operated actuators per each row; and each manually operated actuator being selectably operable to provide one of three discrete outcomes: including a push button assembly and a switch assembly, with the switch assembly consisting of two switches and the push button assembly being manually operable to selectably close either switch individually and both switches together; and~~

a processor circuit having an input in electrical communication with each of the two switches of each switch assembly, the processor circuit operable to discern continuity in an electrical circuit of the switch assembly of each of the manually operable actuators, and to output an appropriate outcome of three possible outcomes for each actuator upon a manual operation of the push button assembly.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. The telephonic equipment compatible keypad of claim 5 claim 1, wherein the processor circuit further comprises a discriminator circuit to detect an inappropriate switch operation.
7. The telephonic equipment compatible keypad of claim 1, wherein the manually operated actuator ~~of claim 3~~, further comprising ~~[[a]]~~ the push button assembly including a combination rocker and push button means manually operable to selectably close either switch individually and both switches together.
8. The push button assembly of claim 7, wherein the combination rocker and push button means includes an upper surface that is a user interface, the user interface having a configuration selected from the group consisting of: the combination button with bossed ends, the combination button with wedge ends; the combination button with lever ends; the combination button with bossed center; the combination button with center lever; and the combination button with center recess.
9. (canceled)
10. The telephonic equipment compatible keypad of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ push button assembly ~~of claim 2, wherein the push button means~~ includes an upper surface that is a user interface, the user interface having a configuration selected from the group consisting of: a depressable triple boss cover, a combination rocker and push button, a rocker with center button, and a combination slide and push button, ~~and triple push button~~.
11. The manually operated activator of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the switch assembly further comprises switches that are single pole, single throw momentary switches.

12. The manually operated activator of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the switch assembly further comprises switches that are double pole, single throw momentary switches.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15 (new). The telephonic equipment compatible keypad of claim 1, wherein at least one of the manually operated actuators in the array is operable as a mode key.